

June 26, 2001

banding together to stop the government's sinister plan. The plan to create more bloodshed is backfiring on the Indian government.

Such a plan is a tyrannical, unacceptable abuse of power. As the superpower in the world and the leader of the forces of freedom, we must take a stand against this tyrannical, terrorist activity. First, President Bush should reconsider the idea of lifting the sanctions against India. Those sanctions should remain in place until the Indian government learns to respect basic human rights. Until then, the United States should provide no aid to India. And to ensure the survival and success of freedom in South Asia, we should go on record strongly supporting self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia in the form of a free and fair, internationally-monitored plebiscite on the issue of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the nations seeking their freedom. This is the best way to let freedom reign in all of South Asia and to create strong allies for America in that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the May 28 Kashmir News Service article on the Indian forces trying to burn the Gurdwara into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues, especially those who defended India at the time of the Chithi Singhpora massacre.

[From the Kashmir Media Service, May 28, 2001]

ATTEMPT TO SET ABLAZE SIKH HOUSES IN IHK FOILED

SRINAGAR—Evil forces behind incidents like collective murder of Sikhs in Chhatti Singhpora were publicly exposed when the people frustrated the Task Forces' designs to set ablaze Sikh houses and Gurdwara in Srinagar late Saturday night.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Muslims and Sikhs came out of their houses in full force and overpowered five of the Indian troops who were about to sprinkle gun powder on Sikhs' houses and adjoining Gurdwara in Alucha Bagh locality with an intention to set them on fire.

The people also seized a military vehicle, the Task Force personnel were riding in. Twelve troops, however, succeeded to escape. Later, the Border Security Force personnel rescued the Task Force personnel. However, the captured vehicle was retained by the people from which, petrol, hand grenades and hundreds of tear gas shells were recovered.

Former APHC Chairman, Syed Ali Gilani led an APHC delegation, including Qazi Ahadullah and Abdul Khaliq Hanif, to the site of the incident. A protest procession was taken out in the locality. The protestors were addressed by Syed Ali Gilani, Ranjiet Singh Sodi, Sardar Bali, Qazi Ahadullah and Abdul Khaliq Hanif.

Syed Ali Gilani recalled the collective murder of Sikhs in Chhatti Singhpora and said, now that India has invited Pakistan's Chief Executive General Musharraf for talks, this sinister plan had been hatched to vitiate the atmosphere by creating communal riots.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JANE E. NORTON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a woman that has made numerous contributions to the State of Colorado and the United States. Jane Norton has served the State in various capacities over the years, and is currently being recognized by her alma mater Colorado State University for her varied accomplishments. As her friends, family and classmates gather to honor Jane Norton, I too would like to pay tribute to Jane. Clearly her hard work is worthy of the praise of Congress.

Jane Norton received her Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences from Colorado State University in 1976. She went on to earn her Masters in Management from Regis University. After graduation Jane held many positions in the government. Most notably Jane was the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush. While serving as the regional director, Jane received the U.S. Public Health Service Assistant Secretary's Award for Outstanding Accomplishment for increasing immunization rates. This is only one of many awards Jane received during her tenure as the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Currently Jane runs a number of broad-based health and environmental protection programs ranging from disease prevention, family and community health services and emergency medical services and prevention. Jane is also Secretary of the State Board of Health, a Commissioned Officer for the Food and Drug Administration, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Regional Air Quality Council and Natural Resource Damages Trustee. Throughout her distinguished career, Jane has been and still is known to her friends and colleagues as a team player. Jane is not only a bright and intelligent woman, but also a woman with incredible people skills.

As Jane receives distinction among her former classmates, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service to the United States of America. She has worked hard for this country, and her hard work is deserving of the recognition of Congress.

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY OF SERVICE AND LEARNING

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. BERMAN, to congratulate Governor Davis on the first annual

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Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning, funded through the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV).

Cesar E. Chavez, a civil rights leader and community servant, committed his life to empowering people. He championed the cause of thousands of farm workers in order to improve their lives and communities and to work for social justice. Chavez believed that service to others was a way of life, not merely an occupation or an occasional act of charity. He forged a legacy of service, conviction and principled leadership. Californians celebrate and learn about the life and works of Chavez annually through civic engagement.

On March 30, 2001, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism commemorated the first annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning by involving K-12 students in service and teaching children about the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez. Individuals, business and community members, teachers and school children came together to perform meaningful service projects to honor the principles by which Chavez conducted his life. GO SERV awarded grants to 71 projects which performed community activities, such as community garden projects, mural painting, theater/teatro performances, environmental restoration projects, community beautification activities, and agricultural/farmworker projects. As a result of these partnerships, over 300,000 students engaged in service activities to honor Cesar E. Chavez.

One striking example was a program in Orange County. At the Orange County Cesar Chavez Day initiative, over 500 4th grade students participated in gleaning fields and harvesting crops. All of the food gathered was donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank which distributed the food locally. Over 25,000 pounds of cabbage, radishes, carrots, onions, romaine, iceberg and butter lettuce was gathered as a result of the program. In addition to gathering food, students planted over 800 seedlings. In June, the program will engage over 400 additional 4th grade students in the program to harvest crops for donation to the Food Bank. The activities are a fitting introduction for students to the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez.

Another program called Barrios Unidos, a nonprofit organization dedicated to violence prevention, developed Cesar Chavez service clubs to commemorate Cesar Chavez Day. Barrios Unidos commemorated the day in seven sites statewide including Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Salinas, Fresno, Santa Monica, Venice, and San Diego. Through these Cesar Chavez clubs, youth participated in community beautification projects while learning about the life and values of Chavez. In Santa Monica for example, people joined to celebrate the day by cleaning up Virginia Avenue Park and painting a 20-foot long mural depicting city life.

GO SERV worked in conjunction with Senator Richard Polanco's office, the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, the Chavez family, and the Department of Education to promote the first annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. We are proud of the undertakings of the first annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning and look forward to continuing to seeing the impact GO SERV will have in our

community while commemorating and teaching Californians about the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AMERICA DENIED VITAL MEDICAL AND FOOD BENEFITS BECAUSE OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am here to convey my strong support for the "Healthy Solutions for America's Hardworking Families" package developed to provide critical health, nutrition, and protection benefits to legal permanent resident children and women. This package includes three pieces of legislation that take steps to address some of the most blatant gaps in our nation's effort to help those legally here in our country in times of greatest need.

As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a Member whose district includes a large Hispanic community, one of my top priorities is to advocate for the fair treatment of hard-working, tax paying families. The Immigrant Children's Health Protection Improvement Act, H.R. 1143, gives States the option of providing basic health care coverage to legal permanent resident children and pregnant women who arrived in the U.S. after August 22, 1996. As a result of the 1996 reforms, lawfully present children and pregnant women who arrived in the US after 1996 must wait five years before they can apply for basic health care.

Because many of these recent immigrants are concentrated in low-paying, low-benefit jobs, these hard-working, tax-paying families, like so many citizens in our country, simply cannot afford private health care coverage. Thus, this vulnerable population cannot obtain proper health treatment such as preventative and prenatal care. Many are forced to delay care and rely on emergency room services to receive treatment. I believe this is an unacceptable risk for any American, as well as for current legal immigrants and their future American children.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated last year that this legislation would provide coverage to insure 130,000 children and 50,000 mothers per year who have followed the rules and are in this country legally. In light of the fact that the Hispanic population is the most uninsured in our country, with over 33 percent having no coverage, this legislation is a critical step in meeting this need.

A second component of this package is the Nutrition Assistance for Working Families and Seniors Act, H.R. 2142, which would permit qualified legal immigrants to obtain food stamps regardless of their date of entry. The majority of those impacted would be in low-income families with children and elderly. I have seen first hand, in my district, the detrimental affects of hunger and under-nutrition. Hungry children are more likely to suffer from adverse health effects and studies show that hunger

has a negative impact on a child's ability to learn. Furthermore, pregnant women who are undernourished are more likely to have children with low birth weights, likely leading to developmental delays.

This important bipartisan legislation is widely supported and endorsed by many, including the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Governor's Association. Restoring this component of our nation's safety net system is not only critical step toward ending hunger in our country, it is just simply the right thing to do.

Finally, the third bill in the Healthy Solutions package is the Women Immigrant's Safe Harbor Act, H.R. 2258, which would allow legal immigrants who are victims of domestic violence to apply for critically needed safety services. These victims are frequently economically dependent on their abusers and isolated from their support networks. I believe we must do everything we can to support victims of abuse and get them on a path toward a better life.

Mr. Speaker, restoring Medicaid and SCHIP, nutrition, and protection services to this group is simply good public policy, but more importantly, the provisions in the "Healthy Solutions for America's Hardworking Families" packages can mean the difference between life and death. We cannot let these children and mothers down. I urge my colleagues to support this important package.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AMERICA DENIED VITAL MEDICAL AND FOOD BENEFITS BECAUSE OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Texas for organizing this Special Order to bring the attention of the House of Representatives to the state of health care—or lack thereof—along the Southwest Border of the United States.

I represent a South Texas district that abuts the international border with Mexico. This part of the country is unique in so many ways, including the health needs and rampant poverty. Currently, the greatest health need in my district is the need for a comprehensive response to the rampant spread of tuberculosis in South Texas and elsewhere along the Southwest Border.

Just today, the Centers for Disease Control announced that the rate of tuberculosis cases in Brownsville, Texas, is nearly five times the national rate.

At least one doctor in the South Texas area has told me that there is a particularly frightening multiple-drug resistant form of tuberculosis that antibiotics just won't kill. I am told that this is spreading fast and is a nightmare for public health officials. It's an enormous problem. Cross-border dwellers, according to the medial community, are not good about following up on medical care and often do not

finish drug therapies such as antibiotics. If you only take a little bit of antibiotics, it only takes care of a little bit of the problem and leaves the tuberculosis strong enough to come back again another day.

I supported a resolution in the House that recognizes the importance of substantially increasing United States investment in international tuberculosis control in the Fiscal year 2002 foreign aid budget, which is what it will take to deal with the problem. This resolution also recognizes the importance of supporting and expanding domestic efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in the United States and calls on local, national and world leaders, including the President, to commit to putting an end to the worldwide tuberculosis epidemic.

But as we all know, resolutions have no affect of law; they are merely words on paper on which all of us can agree. But the most fundamental job of Congress is to determine spending priorities, and we will not move forward on finding solutions to this problem without the full attention of Congress and other public policymakers.

Our migration patterns, be they associated with economic circumstances, immigration between countries or just travel between countries, have made this challenge more significant. Today it is only tuberculosis, but that may not be the case tomorrow. This portends a real crisis for health care along the border if other simple or chronic diseases become resistant to medicine we have used so far to eradicate them.

Another unique problem to the border and South Texas is the issue of safe water to drink. Often the people who are low-income and who live in the colonias, the unincorporated neighborhoods that have sprung up around municipalities, have no running water to drink. Generally, they will drink unsafe, unhealthy water and they get sick from it. These are the people least likely to have any kind of health insurance and are usually not even aware of programs like Medicaid that provide the most basic help for them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to two great women who have gone to great lengths to ensure that the patients who need medications for tuberculosis get them: Dr. Elena Marin of Su Clinica Familiar and Paula Gomez, the Executive Director of the Brownsville Community Health Center. They have been an excellent source of information to me and other Members of Congress who share an interest in matters relating to health care, and I am enormously grateful to them for their service to South Texas and the nation.

I join my colleague CIRO RODRIGUEZ in support of the "Healthy Solutions for America's Hardworking Families" agenda. No agenda can fix everything, but it takes steps to address some of the most egregious gaps in our nation's effort to help new immigrants and those who have lived here for a while along the U.S.-Mexico border.

I thank my colleague from Texas, the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health, for his diligence in bringing these matters before the House of Representatives.